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Clinton, NJ  
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Hartman, Gary S

From: Perrin de Jong [apbake@hotmail.com]  
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2001 11:58 AM  
To: Y12EIS  
Cc: apbake@hotmail.com  
Subject: the preferred alternative

23 February 2001

Mr. Gary Hartman,

I am writing concerning the Department of Energy's (DOE) proposal to build a new special materials facility in order to process chemicals to be used in manufacturing bombs, and a new highly enriched uranium facility, a proposal that would cost U.S. taxpayers around 4 billion dollars. I grew up in the Claxton area, just across the Clinch River from Oak Ridge, and I live there now. I grew up swimming in waters contaminated with heavy metals and radioactive materials, as have many other locals. We don't want another bomb plant to increase the amount of environmental contaminants in this area when the job of cleaning up current contaminants is no where near complete.

1/16

Even at 10% capacity, as the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) indicates, the Y-12 plant is a heavy contributor of HCL, lead, particulate matter and greenhouse gases sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen oxides. Ozone concentrations have exceeded standards near the Oak Ridge Reservation according to air monitoring stations. East Tennessee's air quality is one of the worst in the nation, competing with urban areas of Los Angeles. This is not something to be proud of as we watch the continued environmental degradation of one of our nation's greatest, most diverse, and strikingly beautiful natural areas--the Great Smokey Mountains National Park--which suffers tremendously from high concentrations of ozone and particulate matter in the air. We do not want our taxes to fund a project that does nothing to clean up our current polluted state, but only exacerbates the diminishment of our natural resources, locally, regionally, and nationally.

2/07

It is time for the Department of Energy, the Y-12 plant and its affiliates, to shift its focus to large scale clean up and disarmament. Other nuclear facilities across the nation, previous bomb production plants, have made the transition to clean up successfully, and continue to be financially viable in their respective communities. International treaties, global and national political and military leaders are moving towards global nuclear disarmament. The Department of Energy has the work force and the technology in Oak Ridge to make the transition to clean up and disarmament possible. It is now time for the DOE to show some integrity and develop some innovative solutions to clean up contaminated areas and safely dismantle, rather than upgrade, our nation's nuclear stockpile.

1/16  
(cont.)

Sincerely,  
Amanda Allen  
143 Valley Lane  
Clinton, TN 37716

cc: Bill Frist  
Fred Thompson  
Zach Wamp  
The Oak Ridger  
Knoxville News Sentinel

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## Comment No. 1

Issue Code: 16

DOE recognizes that it has facilities which require some level of environmental cleanup. Most of the facilities at Y-12 were designed and constructed in the 1940s and 1950s, prior to today's environmental requirements when the understanding of waste management principles was not what it is today. Over the past several years, DOE has had a very aggressive facility upgrade and clean-up program and has worked with EPA, the states, stakeholders, and the general public to clean up its facilities to acceptable levels. To date, DOE has completed numerous clean-up activities and is aggressively working toward the cleanup of its remaining environmental problems. Actions taken to continue Y-12 weapons support missions, and construction and operation of new facilities for the HEU Materials and Special Materials missions at Y-12 would not be inconsistent with nor impact these ongoing clean-up activities.

## Comment No. 2

Issue Code: 07

Volume I, Chapter 5, Section 5.7 of the Y-12 SWEIS addresses air quality impacts from the proposed alternatives, and Volume II, Appendices D and E provide further detailed analyses related to human health effects from normal operations/facility accidents, and air quality, respectively. The analyses indicate that Y-12 criteria pollutant emissions are in compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). In addition, air quality in all counties of Eastern Tennessee is classified by EPA as being in attainment (meets NAAQS) for all six criteria air pollutants.

For all the alternatives in the Y-12 SWEIS, nonradiological air pollutant concentrations would be well within established criteria under normal operations. Radiological air emissions would increase due to the resumption of all uranium operations. The dose to the population within 50 miles would be 33.7 person-rem per year. Statistically, this equals to 0.17 latent cancer fatalities for each year of normal operation at Y-12.

**Comment No. 2 (cont.)**

**Issue Code: 07**

DOE carries out its mission (i.e., atomic weapons activities) consistent with the consent of and direction from the President and Congress. Alternative uses of the Nation's funds are beyond the scope of the Y-12 SWEIS.